MABRAY JOYCE A 05/07/82 183532 PRINTER: L

81 TEL AVIV 9282

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 01 - TEL AV 09282 01 OF 02 111810Z
ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00
EB-08 H-01 IO-15 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 HA-06
L-03 DOE-10 TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 SSM-03 INRE-00
SAL-01 OES-09 ACDA-12 SSN-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 DOEE-00
MCE-00 SPRS-02 /135 W
---------- 315236 111841Z /44

O 111759Z JUN 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7650
INFO DIA WASHINGTON DC//
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO RIYADH
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 09282
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
E.O. 12065:RDSS3 6/11/91 (BROWN, WILLIAM A.) OR-M
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 02 TEL AV 09282 01 OF 02 111810Z
TAGS: MOPS, MASS, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRAEL "REGRETS" U.S. DECISION TO SUSPEND
- F-16 DELIVERIES
1(U)THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY RELEASED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING "REGRET" OVER THE U.S. DECISION TO SUSPEND DELIVERY OF FOUR F-16 FIGHTERS IN THE WAKE OF ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR. THE STATEMENT, AS RELATED ON ISRAEL RADIO AT 1400L IS AS FOLLOWS:
- COMMENCE TEXT: FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, NAFTALI LAVI, SAYS ISRAEL VERY MUCH REGRETS THE DECISION (OF WITHHOLDING DELIVERY OF THE F-16 AIRCRAFT) WHICH IT CONSIDERS UNJUST. ISRAEL HAD ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B-1

CONFIDENTIAL

THREATS TO ITS EXISTENCE BY IRAQ, WHICH DECLARES ITSELF TO BE IN A STATE OF WAR AGAINST ISRAEL SINCE 1948. IRAQ HAD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE WARS THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE LAUNCHED AND HAS REFUSED TO SIGN THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, OR EVEN A CEASE-FIRE. IRAQI LEADERS HAVE VOICED TIME AND AGAIN THEIR ENMITY AND AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. THEY NEITHER RESTRICTED NOR DISGUISED THEIR PLANS TO USE ANY WEAPONS -- EITHER CONVENTIONAL OR NON-CONVENTIONAL -- AGAINST ISRAEL.

- IN LIGHT OF THIS, ISRAEL HAD ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE, AND SELF-DEFENSE ONLY.
- THE STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT ISRAEL HAD TRIED TO USE EVERY DIPLOMATIC AVENUE WHICH WAS OPEN. IT WAS ONLY AFTER THESE EFFORTS FAILED THAT ISRAEL WAS FORCED TO TAKE ACTION.
- SPOKESMAN LAVI ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT FOR FIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

YEARS ISRAEL HAD TRIED TO PERSUADE FRANCE NOT TO PROVIDE IRAQ WITH A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY, BUT THIS WAS IN VAIN. END TEXT.

2. (U) THE FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION CAME FROM DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER MORDECHAI ZIPORI IN AN EARLY MORNING RADIO INTERVIEW. ZIPORI DESCRIBED THE U.S. DECISION AS A "MATTER OF MISUNDERSTANDING" AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT "AFTER THE ISSUE IS EXPLAINED, THINGS WILL REVERT TO THE FORMER SITUATION." GOING FURTHER, ZIPORI SAID THAT ONCE THE "MISUNDERSTANDING" IS IRONED OUT, "WE SHALL HAVE TO UNDERTAKE WITH THEM (THE U.S.) AN ALTOGETHER MORE FUNDAMENTAL DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FORM OF THE AID THE U. S. IS GIVING TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND WHAT THE INVOLVED LIMITATIONS ARE....WHAT THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL IS WILL BE DETERMINED SOLELY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, AND NOT BY ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BE IT EVEN THE MOST FRIENDLY ONE." ZIPORI SAID HE DOUBTED THAT A CRISIS WOULD DEVELOP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL OVER THIS DECISION, CITING "HINTS" ALREADY COMING FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE POSITION THE U.S. WILL TAKE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE AND THE FACT THAT THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION TO SAUDI ARABIA.

3. (U) IN AN INTERVIEW WITH MA'ARIV THIS MORNING, ZIPORI TOOK HIS CONCERN ONE STEP FURTHER. CALLING THE SUSPENSION OF THE F-16 DELIVERIES "A VERY ASTONISHING STEP," ZIPORI SAID "AS FAR AS I KNOW THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF U.S. PLANES. IT CANNOT BE SUPPOSED THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL WOULD BUY PLANES FOR WHICH U.S. APPROVAL WOULD HAVE TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THEY COULD BE PUT INTO ACTION." THIS PERCEPTION WAS ECHOED BY "SENIOR DEFENSE SOURCES" WHO TOLD MA'ARIV THAT THE PURCHASE CONTRACTS FOR THE F-16S

MABRAY JOYCE A 05/07/82 183533 PRINTER: LI
81 TEL AVIV 9282
CONFIDENTIAL
CONTAINED NO CLAUSES RESTRICTING THE PLANES' USE. SUCH
RESTRICTIONS APPLIED ONLY TO U.S.-MADE ORDNANCE AND
ONLY ISRAELI-MANUFACTURED ORDNANCE WAS USED IN THE ATTACK
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 04 TEL AV 09282 01 OF 02 111810Z
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

MAERAY JOYCE A 05/07/82 183533 PRINTER: LI
81 TEL AVIV 9282

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 01 TEL AV 09282 02 OF 02 111815Z
ACTION IO-15
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00
EB-08 H-01 NEA-06 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 HA-06
L-03 DOE-10 TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 SSM-03 INRE-00
SAL-01 OES-09 ACDA-12 SSN-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 DOEE-00
MCE-00 SPRS-02 /130 W
---------- 315307 111845Z /43
O 111759Z JUN 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7651
INFO DIA WASHINGTON DC//
473(': /SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO RIYADH
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 09282
ON THE IRAQI REACTOR. DESPITE THE "DISAPPOINTMENT IN
JERUSALEM," A POLITICAL SOURCE TOLD MA'ARIV THAT ISRAEL
WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO A REQUEST FROM WASHINGTON TO
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 02 TEL AV 09282 02 OF 02 111815Z
CARRY OUT A JOINT EXAMINATION AS TO WHETHER ISRAEL HAD
VIOLATED ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. THESE
SOURCES ASSUMED THAT ONCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED,
THE SUPPLY OF F-16S WOULD BE RESUMED.
4. (U) IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION THUS FAR, MA'ARIV
SAID THAT THE U.S. DECISION "CONTAINS THE ELEMENT OF A
JUDGMENT PRIOR TO THE HEARING OF THE EVIDENCE." NOTING
THAT NO DETERMINATION THAT A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED CAN
BE MADE UNTIL AN INVESTIGATION IS CARRIED OUT, AND
EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT THE LEGAL LIMITATIONS ARE IN FACT
AS DESCRIBED IN REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, MA'ARIV ATTRIBUTES
WASHINGTON'S PRECIPITATE MOVE TO ITS ANGER AT THE DAMAGE
CONFIDENTIAL / PAGE 4

CONFIDENTIAL

THE ISRAELI ATTACK MAY HAVE CAUSED TO U.S. EFFORTS TO WEAN IRAQ AWAY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

5. (C) COMMENT: [redacted]

B-1

[redacted] END COMMENT. LEWIS

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED